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## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0301

October 21, 2021

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES

RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENT
NATIONAL SECURITY

Ms. Jennifer Baker Director, Willow Creek Charter School 2100 Willow Creek Road Prescott, AZ 86301

Re:

Willow Creek Charter School Problems

October 14th School Meeting

## Dear Director Baker:

I am writing to you at the request of several parents who have raised serious questions about your lack of leadership, open meeting law violations, and strange curricula. In addition, a complaint has been raised about your abuse of parents and violation of their parental rights to engage with their childrens' school in an open and tolerant manner.

As a public charter school that receives state education funds, Willow Creek Charter School is also eligible, and has received, federal funds including the U.S. Department of Education funds Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Accordingly, there is a federal interest here as well.

Addressing the complaints, parents of children enrolled at your school have contacted me concerning the decisions made at your school that establish a culture of secrecy, opacity, and a complete lack of transparency. In addition, they note a general atmosphere of neglect and educational malpractice.

Specifically, it was reported that at 10:30 AM on October 14, 2021, the Willow Creek Charter School Board met. In spite of this being a public meeting, parents were not allowed to attend, even though Arizona law mandates public participation and notice under Arizona Revised Statutes 38-431.02. Parents were prevented from entering campus for the meeting as the meeting notice was hidden behind locked gates. This public meeting violation was reviewed by the State Ombudsmen who found your actions in violation of state law. More importantly, you are depriving parents from listening and participating in school management.

The topic at this secret meeting was the imposition of an ineffective mask mandate on school children. Masks are subject of ongoing debate by some with wishful thinking, even though every credible review of masks have found their efficacy to be almost zero. "Face masks in the general population might be effective, at least in some circumstances, but there is currently little to no evidence supporting this proposition. If the coronavirus is indeed transmitted via indoor aerosols, face masks are unlikely to be protective. Health authorities should therefore not assume or suggest that face masks will reduce the rate or risk of infection." As policy makers it would behoove you to review the meta-analysis of the overall ineffectiveness of mask mandates. As educators you should not remain ignorant of the science or simply pursue a political agenda to mask children.

By holding a meeting in secret, you deprived parents of their input on this issue that directly impacts the health of their children. Masks, vaccines, and other measures are medical decisions for parents to make with physicians, not by you.

More troubling is your jack-booted response to concerned parents. It is reported that you called law enforcement to arrest or harass concerned parents on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The parents reported being civil, calm, and in compliance with all rules. There was no need to try to intimidate them with authoritarian tactics. As you may be aware, the Biden Administration has, in a fit of fascist delirium, claimed that parents are "domestic terrorists", and the Department of Justice may arrest them as such. This is not acceptable in Prescott or anywhere, and if you see parents in such a light you should reflect on the relative suitability of the position you hold.

My constituents also allege that during school days there are teachers in the classroom but no leadership in their respective office, harming oversight of the curriculum and also depriving parents of access to their children during the school day when needed, such as providing children medicine.

Finally, it is alleged that one male teacher has subjected young children to sexual education "lessons" that border on grooming. This too needs to be reviewed and terminated if true. This same male teacher was also reported teaching "hate" about the United States. Teaching students to hate their own country is not an approved curricula nor is sexual grooming. Again, if these allegations prove true, this would all be without parental consent and subject to zero parental review based on Willow Creek's decision to bar parents from your school board meetings.

The concerns brought to me by my constituents about Willow Creek are deeply disturbing and seem eerily representative of a nationwide scourge which has no place in Arizona. From physically locking parents out, to conducting improper meetings, to calling police on concerned parents, to allowing the lack of oversight to create a culture of biased, inappropriate teaching, Willow Creek stands credibly charged with creating a school hostile to students and education. Remedial action is required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Are Masks Effective? The Evidence. Swiss Policy Research (Oct. 2021)

I am requesting that you clarify what is occurring at Willow Creek Charter School so the parents can be made aware and become involved in the process for the good of their children. By copy of this to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, this is submitted as a complaint about your mismanagement and violation of parental rights under Arizona Administrative Code, R7-5-507.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.

Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. Anne Marie Ward, Parent

Mr. Dennis Wells Arizona Ombudsman Citizen's Aide 7878 N. 16th Street, Suite 235 Phoenix, AZ 85020

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Attn: Complaints and Concerns P.O. Box 18328 Phoenix, AZ 85005